

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 USIA-15 /025 W

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R 251140Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2904

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KE

SUBJECT: KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: A. STATE 142181; B. STATE 143771;

C. LINDSTROM-COOTE TELECON JULY 24

1. AS INDICATED REF C, EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUGGESTION REF A, POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL FUNDING OF JACKSON FIVE VISIT TO KENYA. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE CONSTANT OVER-SOLICITATION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO KENYAN SELF-HELP UNDERTAKINGS, LOCAL AMERICJN PRIVATE SECTOR UNLIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN NEGLIGIBLE PORTION OF TRAVEL COSTS CITED REF B. POSSIBILITY OF DEFRAYING EXPENSES THROUGH PROFITS FROM PAID PERFORMANCES HERE SIMILARLY UNPROMISING BECAUSE OF HIGH RENTALS, TAXES, AND FEES COMBINED WITH NEED TO CHARGE LOW ADMISSION FEES. THEREFORE, WHETHER JACKSON FIVE OR SIMILAR GROUP COMES TO KENYA FOR TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WILL OF NECESSITY DEPEND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON AVAILABILITY OF SOME TYPE OF UYG FINANCING.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES THAT US IS ONLY ONE OF FIVE NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH GOK HAS ASKED TO SEND PERFORMING ARTS OR SPORTS GROUPS TO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (OTHERS ARE GREAT BRITAIN, CHINA, SOVIET UNION, AND CANADA). UNDERSTAND ALL FOUR HAVE GIVEN POSITIVE RESPONSES AND ARRANGEMENTS EITHER COMPLETED OR FAR ADVANCED.

3. EMBASSY HOPES THAT DEPARTMENT IN GIVING FURTHER
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CONSIDERATION TO KENYAN REQUEST WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FOREIGN

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AS WELL AS CUSTOMARY CRITERIA USED BY CU
IN ARRANGING VISITS BY PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS. IN VIEW
FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
ANOTHER LESS COSTLY ROCK GROUP AS ALTERNATIVE TO JACKYON FIVE.
AMONG POSSIBILITIES OCCURRING TO US ARE THE JBS, THE TEMPTATIONS,
BILLY PRESTON, STEVIE WONDER, ISAAC HAYES, AL VREEN.

4. GOK CLEARLY ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER BALANCED SPORTS/
MUSICAL PROGRAM IN WHICH US CONTRIBUTION INTENDED TO APPEAL
BROADLY TO KENYAN YOUTH. WHILE ROCK GROUP WOULD PROBABLY
BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO THIS GOK OBJECTIVE, EMBASSY WILLING
CONSIDER AND PROPOSE OTHER APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVES IF ROCK
GROUP DEFINITELY UNAVAILABLE. EMBASSY DOES NOT FEEL,
HOWEVER, THAT NON-MUSIC EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL PERSONALITY
UNDER STAG PROGRAM (AS SUGGESTED REF A) WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
TO GOK. LINDSTROM

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